

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 04201 161032Z  
ACTION NSF-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7547  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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TAGS: OSCI HU  
SUBJECT: VISIT TO HUNGARY BY NSF REPRESENTATIVES HULL AND RONKIN

1. SUMMARY: HULL AND RONKIN SPENT A FRUITFUL FOUR DAYS IN HUNGARY DECEMBER 9-13 CLARIFYING THE STATUS OF NSF'S EXISTING 14 JOINT PROJECTS WITH THE HUNGARIAN CULTURAL RELATIONS INSTITUTE (KKI), DISCUSSING NEW PROPOSALS, AND HOLDING PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE FIVE-YEAR RENEWAL OF THE NSF/KKI AGREEMENT. THE VISIT WAS EXTREMELY USEFUL, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT TOOK PLACE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE HUNGARIANS ABOUT THE WORK PROGRAM UNDER THE NEW BILATERAL CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. HULL AND RONKIN, ACCOMPANIED BY ECONOFF WHEN FEASIBLE, MET WITH A SERIES OF HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY OF THE PROGRAMS ON THE MAGYAR SIDE. AT THE NATIONAL WATER AUTHORITY, FOR EXAMPLE, THEY HEARD THE HUNGARIANS COMPLAIN THAT PROJECTS TO DATE UNDER THE PROGRAM WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA HAD BEEN TOO THEORETICAL, AND THAT HUNGARY LACKED AN ADEQUATE DATA BASE WITH WHICH TO UTILIZE THESE SOPHISTICATED AMERICAN MODELS. IT WAS AGREED THAT TWO HUNGARIANS WOULD VISIT THE U.S. IN THE SPRING OF 1977 TO DEVELOP A SUITABLE PROGRAM. THE HUNGARIAN AUTOMOTIVE RESEARCH INSTITUTE IS SENDING A RESEARCHER TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR A PROGRAM IN THE FIELD OF TRIBOLOGY, AND MEETINGS WERE HELD AT EOTVOS LORAND UNIVERSITY TO DISCUSS THE PRELIMINARY STAGES OF JOINT COPROJECTS.

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3. THE CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR CHEMISTRY WAS

VERY INTERESTED IN THE JOINT PROJECT WITH CERES CONCERNING THE UTILIZATION OF ANIMAL WASTE, BUT NSF HAD FOUND THEM W. R. S. PARTNER LACKING IN ENGINEERING EXPERTISE. HULL SUCCESSFULLY EXPLAINED THE PROBLEM TO DISAPPOINTED ICAGYARS AND SUGGESTED THEY FIND ALTERNATIVE PARTNERS. DISCUSSIONS WERE ALSO HELD AT THE CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR PHYSICS, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHEMISTRY AT VESPREM AND WITH HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE PRESIDENT SZENTAGOTHAÏ CONCERNING PROPOSED AND ACTIVE PROJECTS.

4. AT A WRAP-UP MEETING DECEMBER 12 KKI OFFICIALS INQUIRED AS TO THE MODALITIES OF EXTENDING THE PRESENT AGREEMENT UPON ITS EXPIRY IN JULY 1977, AND ASKED WHETHER THE LANGUAGE COULD BE MADE SOMEWHAT MORE FLEXIBLE. HUNGARIANS WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE RESEARCH IN MEDICAL FIELD WHICH EVENTUALLY LEADS TO CLINICAL RESEARCH. SINCE THE AGREEMENT SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDES CLINICAL RESEARCH HUNGARIANS WERE SEEKING WORDING FLEXIBILITY SO AS NOT TO EXCLUDE MORE BASIC RESEARCH. IT WAS FINALLY DECIDED THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD PROBABLY BE EXTENDED IN ITS PRESENT FORM, POSSIBLY THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS.

5. KKI'S POLGAR NOTED THAT THE NSF/KKI AGREEMENT WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE WORK PLAN ENVISAGED UNDER THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT. HE STATED THAT HUNGARIANS WERE VERY SATISFIED WITH PROGRAM TO DATE AND HAD USED NSF/KKI AGREEMENT AS MODEL FOR SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES (HE MENTIONED ITALY).

6. EMBASSY FEELS VISIT WAS MOST USEFUL IN CLEARING UP QUESTIONS ON BOTH SIDES CONCERNING SCOPE OF NSF/KKI PROJECTS FOR COMING YEAR. HUNGARIANS WERE ANXIOUS TO RETURN HOSPITALITY PREVIOUSLY EXTENDED TO THEM BY NSF IN U.S. AND DID SO WITH CUSTOMARY MAGYAR FINESSE. HUNGARIANS ESPECIALLY REGRET, AS DOES EMBASSY, THAT HULL WILL NO LONGER BE HANDLING EASTERN EUROPE AFTER FIRST OF YEAR, BUT ARE CONFIDENT THAT SUCCESSFUL

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PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE.  
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